

as the invention. The applicant has amended Claim 2 to clarify that the attaching step referred to is the step of attaching a device to a package substrate. Since the independent claim only contained the one attaching step prior to the 12 July 2002 amendment, and since Claim 2 stated the step comprised “attaching a device to a substrate” the present amendment should not be considered a narrowing amendment.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,644,169 to Chun (“Chun”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,117,705 to Glenn et al. (“Glenn”). The applicant respectfully disagrees and submits the Examiner has failed to present a prima facie case of obviousness.

“To support the conclusion that the claimed combination is directed to obvious subject matter, either the references must expressly or impliedly suggest the claimed combination or the examiner must present a convincing line of reasoning as to why the artisan would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the references.” Ex parte Clapp, 227 U.S.P.Q. 972, 973 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985).

The Examiner has the duty to present a prima facie obviousness rejection. The Examiner stated, “Chun further teaches . . . attaching a package lid 7 (e.g., transparent lid) to the package substrate 1.” The Examiner further stated, “Glenn et al. . . . teach (see specifically figures 7 and 13) a step of encapsulating the side wall 104 (e.g., the debris generating regions) and the bond wire 208 by using a photo-curable adhesive blocking material (Col. 6, lines 6+, Col. 15, lines 34+), wherein the blocking material is avoiding contact with the debris-intolerant region 105 (Col. 16, lines 5+).”

Claim 1 recites, “attaching a device to a package substrate . . . and . . . attaching a package lid to said package substrate, to enclose said device and said blocking material.” The Examiner has not pointed to any teaching in Chun and Glenn that shows, teaches, or suggests this limitation in combination with the additional limitations of Claim 1. Glenn states, “Bead 320 of Fig. 7 has a lower portion 321 which is in contact with upper surface 201 of substrate 200; an upper portion 322 which is in a press-fitted interconnection with a peripheral portion 404 and edge 403 of lid 400; an inner portion 323 which is in contact with a side surface 104 of die 100 and covers the perimeter of upper surface 101 of die 100” Thus, Glenn teaches away from “attaching a

package lid to said package substrate, to enclose said device and said blocking material” as recited by Claim 1, and the Examiner has failed to show an express or implied suggestion in the art, or provide any line of reasoning as to why the artisan would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the references as required by Ex Parte Clapp. For the reasons stated above, the Examiner has not met the burden of presenting a prima facie case of obviousness. Therefore, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is defective and should be withdrawn.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned “Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.”

In view of the amendments and the remarks presented herewith, it is believed that the claims currently in the application, Claims 1-10, accord with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are allowable over the prior art of record. Therefore, it is urged that Claims 1-10 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

In the claims:

Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

2. (twice amended) The method of Claim 1, said attaching a device step further comprising:
attaching a device to a substrate, said device having at least one said debris-generating region comprising a sidewall.